8th October 1928]

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I point out, Sir. . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to take another opportunity to point out. Now the occasion can be used only for putting supplementary questions."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to enquire after finding out that there has been a reduction of at least 50 per cent in ten years by the destruction of wild animals, whether Government will make a careful enquiry in to the subject ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not admit the correctness of the premises of my friend and so I am not prepared to make any enquiry."

Jails

Alleged conversion to Christianity of the accused in the Villivakkam murder case.

*370 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the two accused in what is known as the Villivakkam murder case who had been condemned to be hanged were lodged in the Central Jail, Vellore, prior to their execution ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the two accused were converted to Christianity prior to their execution ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Kadirvelu Nainar, a retired Tahsildar and a religious lecturer in the jail, induced these two condemned men to change their religion ;

(d) whether it is a fact that this Mr. Nainar promised the two condemned men a specially grand funeral and decent burial ;

(e) whether it is a fact that these condemned men embraced Christianity on the strength of that promise ;

(f) whether it is a fact that these two men actually received only the ordinary paupers' burial near Vellore town toll-gate ; and

(g) whether preachers of Hindu religion had equal access to the two condemned men prior to their conversion to Christianity ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) Government have no information.

(g) Hindu moral lecturers have as much free access as the lecturers of other religions, but in this particular instance no Hindu lecturer visited the jail between the date of admission of these men to the jail and date of execution, viz., 2nd May 1927 to 15th September 1927.

Mr. T ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether the Christian missionaries are prevented by rules from preaching to Hindu prisoners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice."

[8th October 1928

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, is it a fact that this Mr. Kadirvelu Nayanar, a Christian paid Missionary propagandist, was allowed to preach to Hindu prisoners including those condemned to death, in the Vellore Jail?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" In view of the fact that I have got positive information to the contrary, will the hon. the Law Member make enquiries into the matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not think that public interests will be served by such an enquiry."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether it is a matter of absolute indifference to him whether the unfortunate Hindus who go to jail and are condemned to death should be converted to Christianity in their last moments in the jails in the interests of the missionaries who are anxious no doubt to add more to the number of converts?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, it is not a matter of indifference to Government."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Then why not the hon. the Law Member make an enquiry into the circumstances under which two unfortunate Brahmans condemned to death and counting their last moments should be exploited by Christian preachers to convert them?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because Government know as a matter of fact that they sent of their own accord for missionaries."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know if Government would enquire why people who have lived up to their 60th or 65th year as Hindus should have become suddenly anxious to send for Christian missionaries unless they were induced and tempted by zealous missionary paid canvassers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is not possible for Government to say why they came to such a conclusion."

Mr. DANIEL THOMAS :—" May I know if condemned prisoners wish to change their religion, the Government can prevent them from doing so?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Certainly not"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" In view of the allegation that has been made that these people were really converted by the efforts of these missionary paid men, will Government undertake an enquiry?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, the allegation is unfounded."

Remuneration to Mr. Kadirvelu Nainar, moral lecturer in Vellore Jail.

*371 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Mr. Nainar, moral lecturer in the Vellore Jail, is a paid employee of the Local Arcot American or some other Christian missionary body?

A.—Mr. Nainar, moral lecturer, the Central Jail, Vellore, was a paid employee of the Local Arcot Mission until a few months ago.